

REMARKS

The Office Action objected to Claims 16-20 as being of improper dependent form. Claims 16-20 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 10, 14, 15, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,661,502, to Cheng (hereinafter "Cheng"). Claims 3, 5-7, 9, 11-13, 16, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Cheng and various other references.

With this response, Claims 4-6, 10, 12, 15, and 17-19 are canceled. Claims 1-3, 7-9, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 20 remain pending in the application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, and for the reasons set forth below, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. In addition to presenting the reasons why applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, a brief summary of the present invention as well as the principal cited reference, Cheng, are presented. However, it should be appreciated that the brief summaries are presented solely to assist the Examiner in recognizing the differences between the pending claims and the cited references and should not be construed as limiting upon the present invention.

Examiner's Interview

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for taking the time on April 25, 2007, to participate in an Examiner's Interview (via telephone) to discuss the above-amended claims. While no specific agreement was reached regarding allowance of the claims, applicants believe that the discussion led to an appreciation of the differences and distinguishing characteristics applicants view between the amended claims and the cited references. Applicants believe that the discussion has substantially advanced the prosecution of the pending claims.

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Cheng (U.S. Patent No. 5,661,502)

Cheng purportedly sets forth a system for smoothing a mouse cursor path according to an inertial constant. Apparently, through the Cheng system, the cursor path is smoother, more stable, at higher speeds thereby enhancing the control a user has over the mouse, including reducing "overshoot" of a displayed target.

In particular, Cheng provides a smoother cursor path by "correcting" the current mouse position based on an inertial constant (which is a function of the mouse cursor speed). Since mouse positions are corrected, jagged movements of a hand as the cursor travels fast are suppressed.

While Cheng discloses that individual cursor positions are corrected according to an inertial constant, Cheng fails to disclose determining a path between the current position and a previous position, determining at least one additional location for a cursor image on the determined path, and for each additional location, displaying an additional cursor image in addition to displaying the cursor image at the current location.

Claim Objections

As indicated above, the Office Action objected to Claims 16-20 as being of improper dependent form. Claims 16 and 17 incorrectly recited dependency from Claim 24 which did not exist, and Claims 18-20 depended from Claims 16 and 17. Applicants have amended Claims 16 and 20 to depend from Claim 14. Claims 17-19 are canceled. Applicants request that in view of the amendments and claim cancellations, the objections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph, Rejections

Claims 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the same reasons as these claims were objected to. Applicants have amended Claims 16

and 20 to depend from Claim 14. Claims 17-19 are canceled. Applicants submit that this fully addresses the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection raised in the Office Action. Applicants request that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections

Claim 1

The Office Action rejected Claim 1 as being anticipated by Cheng. However, in view of the amendments to Claim 1, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

As suggested above, Cheng purportedly discloses a system for smoothing a computer mouse movement (as displayed on the screen). In particular, under circumstances when the mouse is moving rapidly, Cheng purportedly smoothes the path of the cursor according to an inertial constant which generates corrected mouse coordinates. These corrected mouse coordinates restrict the mouse from traveling to actual mouse coordinates, which if allowed would seem jerky and extreme, thus creating a "smoother" cursor path.

Irrespective of whether or not Cheng discloses smoothing the cursor path, applicants submit that Cheng fails to disclose the following as recited in Claim 1:

- generating a mouse path between the current and the previous mouse cursor positions;

- determining at least one additional cursor location on the generated mouse path; and

- displaying a mouse cursor image at each additional determined cursor location on the generated mouse path in addition to displaying a mouse cursor image at the current mouse cursor location

In short, Cheng fails to disclose determining additional cursor locations between the current cursor position and the previous cursor position, and displaying an additional cursor

image at each additional cursor location as well as displaying the cursor image at the current cursor location.

This claim is further distinguishable from a "cursor tail" which maintains the display of cursor images at actual previous cursor locations, rather than generating a path and determining additional cursor locations.

In view of the above, applicants submit that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of Claim 1 be withdrawn, and the claim allowed.

Claims 2, 3, and 7

Claims 2, 3, and 7 depend from independent Claim 1. As applicants submit that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance, applicants further submit that Claims 2, 3, and 7 are in condition for allowance, especially when read in combination with Claim 1.

Claim 8

Independent Claim 8 recites similar elements to those found in Claim 1. In particular, Claim 8 recites:

generating a mouse path between the current and the previous mouse cursor positions;

determining at least one additional cursor location on the generated mouse path; and

displaying a mouse cursor image at each additional determined cursor location on the generated mouse path in addition to displaying a mouse cursor image at the current mouse cursor location.

Accordingly, for the same reasons as set forth above in regard to Claim 1, applicants also submit that Claim 8 is in condition for allowance, and requests that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) rejection be withdrawn, and the claim allowed.

Claims 9, 11, and 13

Claims 9, 11, and 13 depend from independent Claim 8. As applicants submit that Claim 8 is in condition for allowance, applicants further submit that Claims 9, 11, and 13 are in condition for allowance, especially when read in combination with Claim 8.

Claim 14

Claim 14 also recites elements found in independent Claim 1 which distinguish this claim from the cited reference. In particular, Claim 14 recites the following elements:

generating a mouse path between the current and the previous mouse cursor positions;

determining at least one additional cursor location on the generated mouse path; and

displaying a mouse cursor image at each additional determined cursor location on the generated mouse path in addition to displaying a mouse cursor image at the current mouse cursor location.

Accordingly, for the same reasons as set forth above in regard to Claim 1, applicants also submit that Claim 14 is in condition for allowance, and request that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) rejection be withdrawn, and the claim allowed.

Claims 16 and 20

Claims 16 and 20 depend from independent Claim 14. As applicants submit that Claim 14 is in condition for allowance, applicants further submit that Claims 16 and 20 are in condition for allowance, especially when read in combination with Claim 14.

CONCLUSION

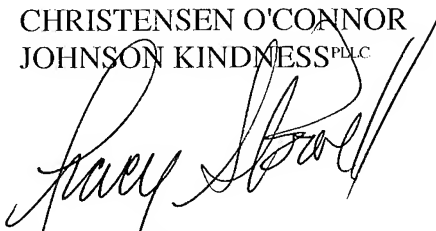
In view of the amendments and remarks above, applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application, as amended, and allowance of the claims at an early date are solicited. If the

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Examiner has any questions or comments concerning the foregoing response, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy S. Powell", is written over the printed name and firm name.

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